



## Frederick County Commission For Women

401 Sagner Avenue

Frederick, MD 21701

(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

[www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw)

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## Frederick County Commission for Women: Public Meeting

November 1, 2022

7:00pm

<https://officeforchildrenandfamilies.my.webex.com/officeforchildrenandfamilies.my/j.php?MTID=m619e0a18c5d8dccc287e63d8f5af3fca>

Meeting number: 2634 561 8120

Password: Vvurb5XRn33

### COMMISSIONERS

**Chelsea Kadish**

*President*

**Kaitlin Moore**

*Vice President*

**Cindy Shubin**

*Recorder*

**Kate O'Leary**

*Treasurer*

**Maura Page**

*Past President*

Melissa Atherholt

Edwina Benites-LM

Lakshmi Darbha

Valerie Dougherty

Lois Jarman

Shauna Mulcahy

Terri Schumann

Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

### I. Roll call of Commissioners

Commissioners Present:

Commissioners Absent:

### II. Meeting called to Order

### III. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

### IV. Introduction of Guest and Presentation – Community Foundation's Betsy Day, speaking on the latest Community Needs Assessment

### V. Committee Reports

#### A. Executive Committee -

- County's Budget Allocation through Citizen Services
- Our new Email Address – [CFWFrederick@gmail.com](mailto:CFWFrederick@gmail.com)
- Update on Google Drive and online collaboration
- Upcoming Meetings - December and March will be in-person meetings this fiscal year, and the remaining meetings will be held virtually via WebEx

#### B. Outreach – Chair, Lakshmi

- Presenting nominees for Maryland Hall of Fame
  - Nominations due by November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Debrief on Asian American Center Health Fair – held Saturday 10/15
- Debrief on Heartly House Walk a Mile in Her Shoes – held Sunday 10/23

#### C. Voter Outreach and Education –

- Committee Report

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### D. Raving About Women Annual Awards –

- Reminder: the annual RAW Awards will be March 9, 2023 6-9pm at The Arc at Market Street.
- Overview of the three awards that will be presented, examples of past recipients, and the solicitation timeline for discussion and approval
  - Reminder: Committee's current plan is for the Commission to vote on the award recipients at our January meeting.

### E. Recruitment –

- Vacancies – The Commission currently has one vacancy
- Gabrielle Wachter – status update on her official appointment

### F. SheLeads –

- Debrief on first meeting with the participants held on 10/22
- Updates on future meetings

### G. Legislative Committee -

- Upcoming Special Events:
  - Tuesday, November 8: Election Day
  - Saturday, November 12 at 9:00am: MLAW conference
  - Thursday, November 17 at 5:00 pm: The Maryland Commission for Women
  - Monday, December 5 at 10:00 am: County Council and County Executive Swearing in Ceremony
- Frederick County Legislative Priorities:
  - 2023 County Budget: On October 18th, the Frederick County Council voted to support the County Executive's legislative package for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly. This package included four provisions, including a provision to increase the marriage license fee to support domestic violence survivors.
    - Background: In September, the Frederick County Commission for Women sent letters to the Frederick County Council and the County Executive requesting support for legislation to protect women's privacy and reproductive rights; and, support for a bill to increase marriage fees in Frederick County to support domestic violence services. In October, the Frederick County Council approved its legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly, which included one of these legislative proposals – the marriage fee bill supported by the Commission.

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- 2024 County Budget: Departments are currently in discussions with the County Executive regarding the FY '24 budget. The County Executive will receive requests from the public regarding budget levels next month.

- MLAW

- The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Conference will be on November 12th.
  - Update on attendees
  - Update on Sponsorship
  - Update on tentative lunch with Commission members and elected officials from Frederick County who attend MLAW

- Long-term Storage

- The committee's reports and correspondence from December 2021 forward have been moved to the newly created GoogleShare Drive.

- Abortion and Reproductive Freedom Developments, Legislative update:

- **Maryland:** Since Roe v. Wade was overturned in June, the following developments have occurred in Maryland regarding abortion and reproductive freedoms:
  - On October 4, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced reproductive health research grants worth more than \$6 million across the country, with more than half going to Maryland organizations and a university.
  - A \$750,000 Title X Family Planning Program grant also went to the Baltimore City Health Department.
  - Baltimore officials also recently announced the first \$167,900 in grants from their new Abortion Protection Fund to strengthen reproductive health services for residents and travelers.
  - The telehealth company Wisp launched services in Maryland in mid-September, joining at least six other groups within the

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- state offering virtual appointments for medication abortions, with pills mailed or picked up at a local pharmacy.
- Maryland remains a state where abortion access is protected, although not yet enshrined in the state constitution.
- **Other States:** In the 100 days following the overturn of Roe v. Wade, the following abortion law changes occurred across the nation:
  - **9 states** have passed laws protecting and expanding the right to abortion access: Vermont, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington and Minnesota.
  - **3 states**—California, Oregon and New York—went further and passed abortion access initiatives designed specifically to help people travelling to those states seeking care from other states.
  - The **U.S. House of Representatives** passed two abortion rights bills: the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) and the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act. Neither has passed the Senate.
  - The **White House** has taken 20 executive actions designed to protect abortion access, including the Justice Department's lawsuit against Idaho's abortion ban, arguing that it violates federal requirement to provide life-saving medical care.
  - **Kansas** overwhelmingly defeated a state-wide referendum seeking to amend the state constitution to include a total abortion ban on August 2, 2022.
  - **Total abortion bans** that criminalize the procedure are now in place in 13 states, and Georgia bans abortion after 6 weeks. Another 6 states have bans currently blocked by the Courts. **West Virginia** is one of the states that passed a near-total abortion ban. This change has a particular impact on Frederick County; given our contiguous geographic location vis a vis West Virginia, we can expect an influx of West Virginia women seeking abortion access in Maryland, now that it is foreclosed in their state.
  - **Abortion clinics closing:** The proliferation of state-wide abortion bans has caused abortion clinics in those states to close or to relocate to other states where abortions are permitted, leaving such states as Mississippi, Louisiana and West Virginia without any abortion providers. The

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Guttmacher Institute reported in July that 43 clinics in 11 states closed in the first month after the Dobbs ruling.

- **Abortion clinics in Maryland:** Maryland currently has six virtual abortion providers, which provide abortion pill teleservices to residents with a mailing address in Maryland, and 23 in-person providers across the state including one in Frederick County.

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## VI. Commission Business - Old Business

- Status of Bylaws revisions

## VII. Commission Business - New Business –

- Michael Hughes, Frederick County's Chief Inclusion Officer, will be a guest speaker at our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Reminder: Eddie suggested having someone from our delegation speak to us in January about their legislative priorities, to be discussed post-election at our December meeting.

## VIII. Commissioner and Guest Announcements

- **Early voting** at four (4) locations in Frederick County runs from 10/27 through 11/3, 7am to 8pm.
- **For vote by mail ballots**, there are also eight (8) BoE drop box locations around the county.
- **Other**

## IX. Adjournment

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